

# The Tucumcari News

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## TAKE YOUR CHOICE

### Some Good Thought Along Educational Lines

The laws of New Mexico in regard to education are such that the responsibility for schools rests wholly with the local community. Each district can have just the kind of schools and the amount of them that the people wish. They can have these on exactly the same terms they can get anything else—by paying for them. If they do not want to pay for them, they can do as they would do about anything else—do without them.

The Territory levies for educational purposes a general tax of two mills, which is paid into the school fund of the county in which it is collected. Beyond this, the people of any district, by an affirmative vote, can levy a tax as high as ten mills for educational purposes. The doing of this rests primarily with the board of directors.

We have a stringent poll tax law that appears to me to be easy of enforcement, by which each male over 21 years of age is required to pay one dollar a year to the school fund of his district. The enforcement of this law also rests with the board of directors, and the people elect the board. So the responsibility comes back on the people. The enrollment of voters in the Territory numbers 64,422. So, if this law were enforced, it would place in the school fund of the Territory \$64,422, — approximately one dollar and fifty cents for each pupil enrolled in the schools.

There are certain funds arising from the rental of government lands, which amount to quite a sum, and from licenses and fines. I shall not consider these in this article, because they are not immediately under the control of the people.

In this article I am not attempting to dictate to the people what they shall do. I am simply trying to acquaint them with their rights and their responsibilities, and then to say to them, take your choice.

Now, some additional facts are interesting. At the last annual examination of teachers, by reports in my office, 350 teachers were examined. Of these, 33 received first grade certificates, 118, second grade, and 179, third grade. Just as long as people are contented to employ teachers with third grade certificates, so long they will continue to have poor schools. And they can not get teachers who are well qualified without paying for them. Take your choice.

From the best information at my command at this writing, it appears that comparatively few districts have levied any special tax for educational purposes. In some cases this is entirely contrary to public sentiment, and in some cases is the fault of incompetent or unwilling boards of directors. San Juan County appears to be an exception. In five districts a special tax of five mills has been levied; in three, seven and a half mills; in five, ten mills. The amount of these levies amounts to over \$5,500. As to the collection of poll tax, the information at my command is not such that I can speak with absolute certainty of accuracy. But the following is what I infer from the reports at hand. If I make any mistakes, I shall be pleased to correct them. In Bernalillo county, outside of Albuquerque, none of the twenty-seven districts collected any; Chavez, none in seven districts; Collax, at least fourteen collected none; Eddy, twelve; Grant, three; Guadalupe, seven; Lincoln, four; Mora, five; Otero, four; Quay, one; Rio Arriba, forty-seven—not a cent collected, Sandoval,

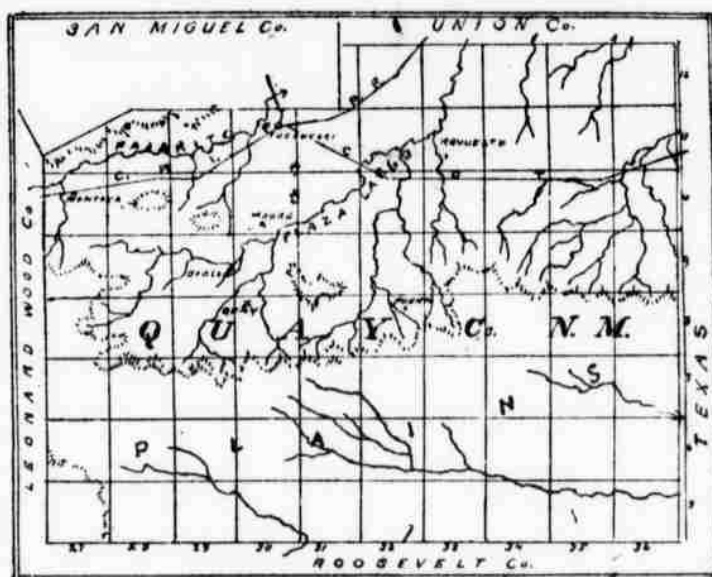
seven; San Miguel, twenty-seven; Santa Fe, twenty-one; Sierra, seven; Socorro, six; Taos, twenty-two out of twenty-seven; Torrance, a new county, six; Union, sixteen out of nineteen; Valencia, fifteen out of twenty-five.

Again there is a great difference in the proportion of districts that have a school house. For instance, Grant has twenty-four districts and twenty two school houses. Tully, seventeen districts and seventeen school houses; Lincoln, twenty-seven districts and twenty-six school houses; San Miguel, seventy-eight districts and ten school houses; Socorro, forty-nine districts and twenty-five school houses; Valencia, twenty-five districts and nine school houses. Our law is very positive about urging directors to provide funds and build houses, but perhaps it indicates greater enterprise and prosperity to hold school in a rented building or abandoned shack. I have heard it said that there are people even in the older states with no better taste than to really take pride in a neat, comfortable, beautiful school house, well located, surrounded by ample play grounds ornamented with attractive shade trees. No doubt that it appears strange to some people of New Mexico that such things would satisfy

to them. Perhaps the position of members of this class is as desirable as those of the former, but somehow it strikes me that I should a little rather have a son of mine belong with the first class. Again, I say, do not take my opinion in the matter. The road is open before you. Take your choice.

In connection with the poll tax matter, I will suggest that New Mexico is what may be called long on children and short on taxable property, and that many families who have the most children pay no tax, or little, at all. The poll tax is all they are called upon to pay. Are there many of these who could not raise one dollar a year? Would it not make them feel better to have a little stock in the great enterprise that is educating their children?

If you ask me what to do in order to have this poll tax collected and a special tax levied as the law provides for, I will say to the people to first talk to the directors of your school district and see if they will not act in the matter. If not, there will be an election for at least one director in your district next June. If you want this tax and better schools, see to it that the right man is elected. If you do not want it, then elect one who is always shouting "whoa."



A MILLION AND A HALF ACRES OF PUBLIC DOMAIN YET OPEN  
TO HOMESTEAD ENTRY.

Eastern people, but then there is an old saying, that there is no accounting for tastes. The case is before the people. All I can say is, take your choice.

Again, there are some counties so far behind others in the education of their children and they do not deserve to be mentioned in the same class. As comparisons are said to be odious, I shall not name any of these. Perhaps it may be thought by these counties that education is of little value anyway, — a kind of hindrance to the boy or girl. That may be so, but I can point you to some native young men whom I have known intimately during the past fifteen or more years, who have spent a large portion of those years under great difficulties in getting an education. Today they are men of splendid character, clean and honest, and earning from \$1,500 to \$2,000 per annum, and exerting an excellent influence in advancing good reforms amongst the people, with bright prospects before them for life. Also I can point to some of their associates as boys who are also men today. These have spent the same years without any purpose in view. They have attained to what they sought, the ability to earn \$1.00 per day for about one half the year as jobs come

"Low taxes" has a soothing sound. But, if anyone really wants low taxes, let him go and seek admission to one of the many Indian pueblos. There he can find "low taxes" to his heart's content, and all the accompanying advantages of Indian civilization.

My motto is: "High taxes, equitable assessment, and honest expenditure." I want to live in that kind of community. But, then again, I may be all wrong. My friends, take your choice. You are entitled to your opinions.

HERMAN HADLEY

### Homestead Entries

The following parties have made homestead entries before U. S. Commissioner N. V. Gallegos this week:

C. H. Homing, E. L. Baker, W. J. Pittman, F. M. Jackson, Oliver Gallentine, C. R. Bell, Mecaria Borgnez, Hilaria Borgnez, Francisco Fuentes, George W. McCarger, Maria Francesquito Artega, Will C. Colyar, A. J. Estell, George R. Thompson, Felix Tiner.

Extract from National Geographical Magazine "Are you Hungary?" "Yes, Siann." "Well, come along, I'll Fiji."

A Cowboy's Idea of the Sweet  
Bye and Bye.

A bit of tender sentiment permeates every line of the following:

"Last night as I lay on the prairie,  
And looked at the stars in the sky,  
I wondered if ever a cowboy  
Would drift to that sweet bye and  
bye."

Jack laid his pipe down and turning to his pard, who was also star gazing said: "Old man, what do you think of that proposition, anyway?" "What's that, old boy?" "Well, this deal about the sweet bye and bye. Do you think a couple of toughs like us would stand any kind of a show way up there among them angels with their golden wings, the golden paved streets, no end of harps, free music, everything coming our way, where everyone has his own private band and the good Lord is dead onto every angel in the herd? I've been sort of thinking this thing over, and it hits me in the short ribs that you and me had better sit in that kind of a game, play close and see if we can't win, for -

"The trail to that bright, mystic region  
Is narrow and dim so they say,  
But the one that leads down to perdition  
Is staked and blazed all the way."

"And that's dead right. It's no trouble to find the trail to hades; it's a cinch and you can't lose it, for the devil is the slickest old boy in the deck. He sticks closer than that porous plaster I put on you that had been shot with bird shot. When the big round up comes up we want to be easy to find.

"They say there will be a great round up  
Where cowboys like cattle will stand—  
To be cut out by those riders from heaven  
Who are posted and know every brand."

"Now, old man, that verse is the apple dumpling of the whole layout and shows that no monkeying goes for a minute. How are you going to get around it? You and me have been riding these ranges all our lives, and we ain't got a brand. We've got to croak some day. Look at pay day, we got our dough and where is it? Booze—fairies and booze! A scrap or two and we go back to work. It's the same old game you can't beat it. Do you think a cow-puncher could go to heaven, anyhow?"

"I wonder was there ever a cowboy  
Prepared for the great judgement day  
Who could say to the boss of the riders,  
'I am ready to be driven away.'"<sup>17</sup>

"That last one is a hard crack. I don't see why a cowboy can't get there with both hoofs. I'm going to keep cases on them sky pilots and try to get onto their curves, but, old man, it's on the square, and I know it. Listen to this:

"They say he will never forsake you —  
That he notes every action and look;  
But for safety you'd better get branded,  
And have your name in the big tally  
book."

"Now, you've got the whole snap right in the neck. I'm going to get branded. You had better shake off your hobbies and cash in your chips with me. When we get up yonder and jingle our spurs at the gate of the big corral and St. Peter looks out we'll just tell his royal highness that we are the two biggest thorough-breeds that ever came from Turkey Track Range; that lately we've been on the dead square—no monkeying of any kind—and it's safe money that he'll say to some tenderfoot, 'Just fit these gentlemen out with wings.' Then we're in the game from that time on."—  
Ex

## A Christmas Present

To your wife, husband, brother, sister or sweetheart: A lot from the Tucumcari Townsite & Investment Company, or from the Tucumcari Land Company. For particulars apply to M. B. Goldenberg, Agt